



Councilwoman

Alberta Tinsley Talabi

COMMUNITY UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of Council News and Information for the Detroit Community

A New Year - A Brighter Outlook For the Future

The past year brought tragedy to our nation's doorstep. The events of September 11, 2001 rocked the very core of our existence.

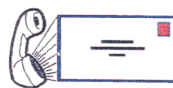
Although the terrorist attacks occurred in isolated areas of the United States, the entire nation has been affected as a result.

As we continue to grieve the loss of life and reflect on the notion of our own vulnerability, we must continue to move forward with courage and hope for the sake of our children's future. Their lives are sustained through our strength;

therefore, we must remain strong and united in our resolve.

As we begin this new year I want to wish you peace, good health and harmony in 2002. My goal as your councilwoman remains steadfast: to serve in your best interest and work with you the mayor and my council colleagues to improve our city and our quality of life.

As always, I invite you to contact me with your concerns.



By telephone call
(313) 224-1645,
or write to me at 2
Woodward Ave.,

Room 1340
Coleman A. Young Municipal
Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226.
Or you may contact me on the web

at
www.albertaforDETROIT.com
or the City's web
page at
www.cityofDETROIT.gov



Councilwoman Outlines Focus for 2002

This year will be both exciting and challenging. The city has a new mayor and three new council members. But there are a number of significant public policy issues that must be addressed to improve the quality of life for all residents and businesses in the city. During the 2002 Legislative Season, I will focus on the following:

- **City Services** The city needs a new service delivery system to ensure that departments are proactive, services are timely and that there are clear lines of accountability. Some of the departments I will focus on are Public Works, Public Lighting, Buildings & Safety Engineering.
- **Housing** More affordable housing must be developed and dangerous buildings must be demolished to improve our neighborhoods. However, abandoned buildings that can

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be rehabilitated must be saved and sold for a nominal fee to a family or made available to a community group. The departments key to this issue are Public Works, Planning & Development and Buildings & Safety Engineering.

Youth We have to provide a safe, positive alternative for our youths. I will continue to expand the after school program and increase the number of internships and co-op employment for our students. Internships and co-op employment are excellent ways to help students with career planning. The Youth and Recreation Departments will have to coordinate programs in order to be effective.

Small Business Development We must find new ways to increase the capacity of small businesses. Small business is one of the most effective ways for cities to create jobs, increase tax revenues and ensure greater long-term stability for the local economy. The Office of Targeted Business Development, created by City Council in 2001, will focus the needed attention on Detroit's small businesses. I will work closely with the Mayor's Office and Finance Dept. on this program.

Citizens Input Effective government can not occur without a partnership with our citizens. An increasing number of communities want an active role in improving their neighborhoods and want

to provide input before it is too late to make a difference. I will work to ensure that more opportunities are provided to residents to decide what happens in their community.

The city will have to be extremely mindful of costs given the current state of the economy. We will have to make cuts, but we also have to take a balanced approach by looking for ways to increase revenue, find new resources and make our current resources go farther. Your leadership, working hand in hand with the community, can make a difference even in these tough times. That is my pledge to you.

If you have any questions related to policy issues you may contact any of Councilwoman Talabi's policy staff members listed below.
George Stanton, Policy Director
 (313) 224-1754
LaKisha Barclift, Policy Analyst
 (313) 224-4352
George Davis, Policy Analyst
 (313) 224-1786

Especially For Our Seniors

Since 1998, Council member Alberta Tinsley Talabi and staff have visited senior buildings throughout the city of Detroit. On several occasions, seniors were treated to lunch while the councilwoman and staff listened to ideas and concerns and presented information about city government to the seniors.

Some of these luncheons have been provided in conjunction with State Representative Artina Tinsley Hardman.

"I enjoy meeting with seniors," said Council member Tinsley

Talabi. "They deserve to be heard and I respect their desire to get involved."

For questions regarding senior issues or to inquire about a visit to your senior building, please contact Maxine McBride, Senior Issues Coordinator for Councilwo-

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 Tinsley
 Talabi at
 (313) 224-
 1687.



Programs available to seniors

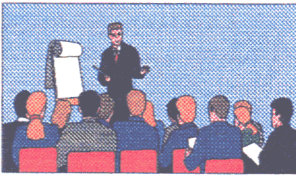
Seniors who are at least 62 years of age and are residents of Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb counties, who live alone or with a spouse, and are not eligible for, or receive Medicaid benefits, and have no insurance coverage for medications may apply for the World Medical Relief Prescription Program.

The monthly income guide line is \$1100.00 for one person and \$1375.00 per couple. Asset totals cannot exceed \$3500.00 per person or \$4000.00 per couple. To apply, and for more information, please call (313) 866-5333.

Another program available to seniors age 60 and over, and who live in Wayne County is the Free County Card Drug Discount Plan.

Created through an agreement between Wayne County PharmaCare and the nation's CVS Pharmacy stores, this program will save 5% to 30% on prescriptions for qualified seniors. For more information or to apply for the card, call toll free, 1-800-777-1023.

Together We Standwith the community



Councilwoman Alberta Tinsley Talabi's "Community Relations Team" works hard to be an asset to her office, as well as to the people in the community. Attending meetings, identifying solutions, creating networking opportunities, developing coalitions, consulting and providing support to community and church groups, citizens and business owners, are just a few of their responsibilities. Councilwoman Tinsley Talabi believes that it is important to maintain a genuine connection with the community in order to be an effective councilperson.

The Community Relations Team includes staff members, Dorotha Hannah, Maxine McBride, Dale Foster and Paul Taylor. But this team can not be complete without you, the residents of Detroit. With you, we can revitalize our neighborhoods, break down barriers, roll up our sleeves and make a difference. Together, we *can* build a better Detroit. Please contact Ms. Dorotha Hannah at 224-1681 if you would like one of our team members to attend your next community meeting or neighborhood event.

Fax Us At (313) 224-1787



Poetry Corner

What Doth The New Year Bring?

The New Year doth bring another chance to start anew
To switch your favorite color from purple to blue
We'll set new goals and list each one
No matter that past goals were left undone
It's a new year, unblemished, full of opportunity
For moms, dads, sisters, brothers and our entire community
Bravely we'll enter 2002
Not exactly sure of just what to do
You see, the world's been topsy turvy since 9-11
No one's quite sure of just where we're headed
Hey, but it's still a new year, no matter the rest
It's time for each of us to pursue our best
Look, we'll have a council that's 1/3 new
Word is cable sales has shot through the roof
Mahaffy, Ken Cockrell and Scott landed the top three
Followed by McPhail, Sheila Cockrell and Tinsley-Talabi
Why, I think I'll make civics and channel 10 a hobby
Oh, but just wait
There's also Everett, Collins, and don't forget Bates
The combination of wisdom and passion of these nine
Bring forth the promise of interesting times
And what about our new Mayor, "Right Here, Right Now"
He promises to make it better, some way, some how.
I hope he's successful, I wish him the best
With his youthful exuberance, he's up to the test
So, let all of us, together, welcome in 2002
As we start this New Year in good service to you.

By Alberta Tinsley Talabi
Detroit City Councilwoman



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Alberta Tinsley Talabi
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Councilwoman Brings Kwanzaa to the Community



Each year, Councilwoman Alberta Tinsley Talabi hosts Kwanzaa night celebrations throughout the Detroit community. Recognizing the importance of the seven principles (Nguzo Saba) in promoting good family values and cultural awareness, Councilwoman Tinsley Talabi has, for the past nine years, joined with faith-based institutions across the city to bring this event to the people of the city of Detroit and, hopefully, promote the use of these principles in our daily lives.

Those in attendance enjoyed five evenings of affirmation, song, dance, cultural expression and instruction. Each night also featured a guest speaker who reflected on the significance of the principle of the day. Councilwoman Tinsley Talabi invites everyone to join her each year for these wonderful Kwanzaa celebrations.

You may call my office at (313) 224-1645 for information regarding Kwanzaa or any other events sponsored by my office.

